

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-12

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R 302235Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII ROUTINE 1181

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE VIA POUCH
AMCONSUL PERTH VIA POUCH
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND VIA POUCH

S E C R E T STATE 221048

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS

TO: EA - MR. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/ANZ - FRANK C. BENNETT, JR.

AUSTRALIA

1. TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKES AND SATELLITES.

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THE AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE WAS SETTLED THIS
WEEK BUT NOT WITHOUT SOME TOOING AND FROING ON OUR SIDE.
LATE LAST WEEK NORAD ELECTED TO DEPLOY A SATELLITE
STATION TO WOOMERA OUT OF CONCERN THAT THE
BACK-UP CIRCUIT FOR OUR AIR FORCE INSTALLATION THERE MIGHT
BE AFFECTED BY THE STRIKE. BRISK WORK BY OUR DEFATT,
COL. GLASGOW, DAVE PASSAGE AND OTHERS IN THE EMBASSY

RESULTED IN SPEEDY GOA AUTHORIZATION TO SEND IN THE REQUISITE EQUIPMENT VIA A MAC C-5A AND A C-141. HOWEVER, THE PLANES ONLY REACHED RAAF RICHMOND (SYDNEY) WHEN THE STRIKE WAS SETTLED SO THEY WERE TURNED AROUND WITHOUT HAVING DELIVERED THE STATION, MUCH TO THE RELIEF OF SOME GOA OFFICIALS WHO FEARED A POSSIBLE ACCUSATION OF STRIKE BREAKING. RESPONSE FROM THE EMBASSY TO MIDDLE-OF-THE-NIGHT

CABLES AND TELEPHONE CALLS WAS BOTH GOOD HUMORED AND EFFICIENT. (SECRET)

2. TRANET. YOU SIGNED OFF ON WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE THE LAST CABLE ON THE USES OF THE SMITHFIELD (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) TRANET STATION YESTERDAY. THE CABLE DOES NOT RESPOND, HOWEVER, TO A REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE STATION AND I HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM OUR DMA THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WAS, BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, NOT DISCUSSED WITH ADODS DIRECTOR OF SURVEY COL. HILLIER WHEN HE WAS HERE RECENTLY. THEREFORE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT, DESPITE OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF OUR CLARIFICATIONS, SIR ARTHUR TANGE WILL PRESS FOR AN AGREEMENT. MY CONTACTS IN DMA AND ELSEWHERE INDICATE THAT WHILE IT IS SIMPLER NOT TO HAVE TO NEGOTIATE ONE, THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IF THE REQUEST IS RENEWED. (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

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3. INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REPORT. WE RESPONDED THIS WEEK TO A FOLLOW-UP ON OUR COMPLIANCE REPORT ON THE INSPECTIONS OF EMBASSIES CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON. THE POINTS WERE COMPARATIVELY MINOR ONES SO THAT WE DID NOT QUERY POSTS. COPIES OF THE EXCHANGE OF MEMOS ARE BEING POUCHED, HOWEVER. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. PERSONNEL NOTES. PETER FROST, WHO HAS BEEN REPLACED AS ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN CANBERRA BY VERNE DICKEY, HAS TAKEN UP HIS DUTIES IN EB'S OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS. PETER, BOB GREY IN EUR/NE, AND BOB BROWN IN EB/OA/AN PROVIDE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE NEOPHYTES OF ANZ.

I TALKED TO EVELYN COLBERT AT SIBLEY HOSPITAL THIS MORNING. SHE SAYS SHE IS FEELING marginally BETTER BUT DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE BACK IN THE OFFICE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NEW ZEALAND

5. ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY

WITH TREASURY, EB, AND EA/EP TO ENSURE THAT THE
UPCOMING ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND GO
SMOOTHLY ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND THAT TREASURY SECRETARY
LOUGH AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE
SUITABLY ENTERTAINED. ERLAND SIGNED OFF TODAY ON THE
MEMO TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER PROPOSING THAT HE HOST
A FUNCTION FOR THE DELEGATION. (UNCLASSIFIED) CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BRISBANE PERTH AND AUCKLAND.

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